



# Beyond Borders Tour

March 27 – April 6, 2022

## Itinerary Overview

Welcome to Friends of the Arava Institute's Beyond Borders Tour! Over the next 10 days you will join others on a unique tour through Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan to meet with government leaders, environmental experts and activists, as well as Arava Institute faculty, researchers, alumni and students to learn about how environmental diplomacy is advancing regional cooperation.

*Please note: Itinerary Subject to Change.*

*All meals are included.*

### **Day 1: Sunday, March 27: Welcome to Jerusalem!**

Travel to the deluxe Orient Jerusalem, carrying with you're your entry documentation you receive upon arrival to the country. The Orient Hotel is located in the German Colony with views overlooking the Old City, not far from the First Station, the first train station in Jerusalem, now an outdoor entertainment center.



From 3pm: Check-in to the Orient Jerusalem, Emek Refaim St. 3, Jerusalem. You will just require your name for check in.

From 5pm: Beyond Borders welcome station at the hotel lobby. Come get your welcome pack.

7pm: Welcome Dinner at the Orient Jerusalem: Meet your fellow Beyond Borders participants and the staff who will be with you for this unique experience, and discuss the trip's itinerary, what you'll experience, and receive an overview of the regional situation from Ambassador Daniel Shek.

Overnight: Orient Jerusalem, Emek Refaim St. 3, Jerusalem

## **Day 2: Monday, March 28: Jerusalem**

7:30am: Breakfast in the hotel.

8:30 leave hotel for day

After a traditional Israeli buffet breakfast, travel together for a tour of East Jerusalem with Arava Institute Executive Director and East Jerusalem resident Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed and journalist Eliezer Ya'ari. Meet Israeli Knesset leaders engaged in environmental cooperation.

Conclude the day with dinner at Lechem Basar, a contemporary meat restaurant in the renovated and vibrant First Station, with Arava Institute interns who will share their work in transboundary water research.

Overnight: Orient Jerusalem, Emek Refaim St. 3, Jerusalem

## **Day 3: Tuesday, March 29: West Bank**

7:30am: Check out and breakfast at the hotel.

8:30am: Depart Jerusalem

After breakfast, we will depart Jerusalem for the West Bank, where we will meet Palestinian engineers and partners engaged in the Arava Institute's work to bring the Al-Bireh water trunkline to Jordan Valley farmers. We will continue onto Ramallah where we will meet with the Arava Institute's Palestinian partners in the non-governmental organization, Damour for Community Development and others who are part of the Arava Institute's Track II Environmental Forum. We will travel to Tel Aviv for dinner at 7:30pm and to relax after a full day. We will stay overnight at the Carlton Hotel located on the Tel Aviv Promenade and beach.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Eliezer Peri St 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo



## **Day 4: Wednesday, March 30: Tel Aviv**

7:30am: Breakfast in the hotel.

8:30am: Leave hotel for Peres Center for Peace and Innovation in Jaffa

After a traditional Israeli buffet breakfast, we will travel to the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation in Jaffa. Founded by former President of Israel, Shimon Peres, the Peres Center is a non-governmental center which aims to advance the former President's goal to pursue peace through socio-economic development and people-to-people efforts. We will meet Israeli civil society leaders, including Yuli Tamir and Dov Hanin. Yuli is an Israeli academic and former politician who served as a member of the Knesset for the Labor Party between 2003 and 2010, and as Minister of Immigration Absorption and Education, as well as the Deputy Speaker of the Knesset and a member of the Finance Committee, the Education Committee, and the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. Dov is an Israel political scientist and lawyer who served in the Knesset and is also an activist in socio-economic equality efforts and an environmentalist. After lunch in a Jaffa café, we will take a multi-narratives tour of the city, learning about the Jewish and Arab historical foundations of Jaffa.

Later, we will return to Tel Aviv for some optional free time and then be joined by MK Emilie Moatti (Labor Party), Arava Institute research director Clive Lipchin and alumni for dinner at 8pm.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Eliezer Peri St 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo

## **Day 5: Thursday, March 31: Depart Tel Aviv and continue South**

7:00am: Check out and breakfast at the hotel.

8:00am: Depart Tel Aviv towards southern Israel.

After breakfast, we will check out of our hotel as we continue our travels south, learning more about the ecological environment and environmental cooperation efforts. Today, we will meet Arava Institute research director Dr. Miri Lavi-Neeman who directs the Institute's research in political ecology when we will visit the Bedouin Village of Wadi Aricha. Here, the Arava Institute has partnered with the local Bedouin to introduce wastewater treatment and reuse systems. We will continue onto beautiful Mitzpe Ramon for an ecological tour. We conclude the day arriving at Kibbutz Ketura, where the Arava Institute is located. Tonight, we have the option of a relaxing evening with dinner on the kibbutz or traveling to Eilat for dinner independently.

Overnight: Kibbutz Ketura

## **Day 6: Friday, April 1: Kibbutz Ketura, Arava Institute and Eilat**

8:00am: Breakfast in the kibbutz dining hall.

9:00 am Meet Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed at the Arava Institute Pergola (close to the guest house lobby)



After breakfast we will meet with Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed, Arava Institute Executive Director, receive a tour of the Arava Institute and hear Dr. Abu Hamed's vision for the Institute as it begins its next 25 years of growth.

We will then travel together to the Dead Sea R&D Center, a science center that conducts research in the region and promotes cross-border scientific cooperation, for a tour of Arava Institute's joint projects in renewable energy.

We'll return to the Arava Institute for lunch and to relax before Shabbat. Optional Sabbath evening services will be available on the Kibbutz at 6:30pm, followed by a festive Sabbath meal in the dining hall at 7:30pm. We will have dessert with Arava Institute students.

Overnight: Kibbutz Ketura

## **Day 7: Saturday, April 2: Kibbutz Ketura**

After breakfast available in your rooms, everyone will participate in a tour of the Institute's orchards, led by Arava Institute faculty. See the renowned Methuselah, the first date palm germinated from Judean date palm seeds, over 2000 years old. See Methuselah's cousins which are now growing the third harvest of dates from these ancient seeds.

10:30am: Tour of the Institute's Orchards, meet at the guest house lobby.

Lunch will be available in the Kibbutz dining hall from 12:00-1:30pm.

After lunch, we will tour the Institute's Off-Grid Technology Village. This model provides prototypes of cutting-edge research and development the Arava Institute is piloting.

At 7pm we'll be joined for a festive evening dinner with Arava Institute staff as we enjoy our final evening on Kibbutz Ketura.

Overnight: Kibbutz Ketura

## **Day 8: Sunday, April 3: Crossing into Jordan, Aqaba, and Wadi Rum**

7:00am: Breakfast in the kibbutz dining hall and check out of the Kibbutz guest house.

8:00am: Depart towards Jordan.

After breakfast, we will bid goodbye to Kibbutz Ketura as we proceed to the Jordanian border. We will say goodbye to the physical space of the Arava Institute but we will continue to connect with the Arava Institute's extended community as we are greeted by Arava Institute alumnus Amjad Hijazen. In the seaside resort town of Aqaba, we will meet with Amjad and other Arava Institute alumni at the Marine Science Center and learn about the water sustainability projects the center conducts with the Arava Institute researchers. We will then depart to Wadi Rum, where we will enjoy a Jeep tour of this beautiful and otherworldly section of the Arabian Desert that features red sand dunes and towering



sandstone mountains. Here we will enjoy a Bedouin-style lunch and then continue onto Petra where we will have dinner and overnight at the luxurious Movenpick Hotel Petra.

Overnight: Movenpick Petra, Tourism St Petra Wadi Musa

### **Day 9: Monday, April 4: Petra and Dead Sea**

7:30am: Check out and breakfast at the hotel.

8:30am: Leave hotel for Petra.

After breakfast, we will spend the morning touring and exploring the World Heritage site of Petra, an ancient Nabatean city and archeological site. A tour guide will lead us through this unique and beautiful ancient city. We will continue onto the Dead Sea to enjoy dinner overlooking the beautiful view of the Dead Sea into Israel. We will stay overnight at the luxurious Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea, located on the shores of the Dead Sea.

Overnight: Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea

### **Day 10: Tuesday, April 5: Madaba and Amman**

7:30am: Check out and breakfast at the hotel.

8:30am: Departure north towards Amman.

After breakfast, we will check out of our hotel as we continue north to Amman. On our way, we will head to Madaba where we will visit the Byzantine mosaics. We will continue onto the Jordanian capital of Amman where we will meet with government leaders, including the Israeli ambassador to Jordan, His Excellency Mr. Eitan Surkis. For this final evening in Jordan, we will have dinner with Arava Institute Jordanian and Palestinian alumni engaged in sustainability efforts in Jordan.

Those continuing onto Dubai will depart to the airport around 7:30pm for a 10:15pm flight to Dubai.

Overnight for others: Kempinski Hotel Amman.

### **Day 11: Wednesday, April 6: Departure**

With our tour finally complete, we will transfer everyone to the airport for their flights onto their next destination.